

09/856,728

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 19-27 are allowed over the art of record.

Only claims 28 and 31 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Edelstahlweke in view of Fey '567. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

Claim 28 is canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, from this application.

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 29 and 30 are objected to but would be allowable if appropriately amended. In accordance with this indication, objected to claim 29 is suitably amended, by the above claim amendments, and that amended independent claim is now believed to be allowable as well. As claims 30 and 31 both depend directly thereon, those two dependent claims are also believed to be allowable as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

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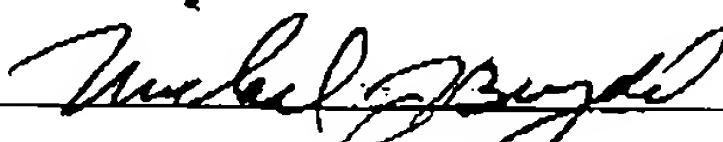
In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on: May 29, 2003



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